

# Meeting Minutes-State Interagency Team Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2020

3:00-4:00

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Facilitator:** Diane Bugbee and Cheryle Wilcox

**Present:** Cheryle Wilcox, Diane Bugbee, Suzanne Legare Belcher, Brenda Gooley, Laurel Omland, Karen Bielawski-Branch, Adam Poulin, Amy Roth, Barb Joyal, Diane Bugbee, Karen Price, Dana Robson, Auburn Watersong, Amy Lincoln Moore, Sandi Yandow

**Regrets:**

Agenda	Discussion Notes	Next Steps
Updates: What do we need to know right now about what is happening in each of our depts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CDD:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Morgan Cole is leaving her position as CIS Director--tomorrow is her last day. We will all greatly miss her!</li><li>○ There is a plan to post the position as soon as possible. Hoping the hiring freeze is going to lift.</li><li>○ They are figuring out an interim plan to cover the duties.</li><li>○ Policy Director, Melissa Riegel-Garrett was out for the summer, but she is back!</li><li>○ hoping to have CIS guidance out soon for folks providing services through childcare settings. This has been worked on for months. They have been working with VDH, AOE, DMH, childcare providers.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>DMH:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ VDH and DMH received a large Suicide Prevention Grant from the CDC.</li><li>○ DAs continue in person and remote work.</li><li>○ School based clinicians are doing remote and in-person work as well.</li><li>○ Children's Operations team has been very busy with children in need of a higher level of care.</li><li>○ Still have several key positions vacant at DMH due to the hiring freeze.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>DAIL:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Still providing emergency funds for shared living providers and to unpaid family caregivers.</li><li>○ Document in DAIL website provides information on what DAIL has been doing to sustain the system and safety support individuals receiving services.</li><li>○ Have concerns about children with special needs and will be meeting with AOE to discuss this.</li><li>○ They have started an equity and diversity task force that is comprised of 8 reps from the dept.</li></ul></li></ul>	

- Children’s budget information has gone out as needed despite the COVID pandemic—woohoo Diane Bugbee for making this happen.
- Restarting DAIL payment reform.

- **Family Services:**

- Ellie Breitmaier is now officially retired—she has been the Domestic and Sexual Violence Director for many years.
- Working to develop a Woodside replacement-there are no longer any youth at the facility.
- New member of the Family Services Management Team-Tyler Allen, Director of Adolescent Services
- September is celebrating Kinship month
- Have launched the Leadership Academy for Middle Managers.
- Brenda Gooley will be on WCAX tonight talking about the impact COVID has had on foster care providers.
- Calls of concern to the hotline are about 20% below what it was last year. They are paying close attention to that.

- **VFN:**

- Found out they received the Vermont Parent Center grant for the next five years.
- Have heard from many parents who are struggling with school plans for their children.
- Have been having a series of workshops and trainings.
- <https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/events-news/online-learning-series/>
- October 1 from 10 am – 11 am – Coverage to Care: Insuring Vermont Families. Presenter: Victoria Jarvis, Program Manager, In-Person Assistants, Vermont Health Connect. Register here
- October 7 from 1 pm – 2:30 pm – Preparing Families to Provide Testimony About Changes to Special Education Rules. Presenters: Attorneys from Vermont Legal Aid Disability Law Project. Register here
- October 19 from 9 am – 10 am – Family Strategies for Mitigating the Long-Term Effects of the Pandemic. Presenter: Dr. Marlene Marone, Licensed Psychologist-Doctorate, Chief Psychologist & Manager, Psychological Services, University of Vermont Medical Center. Register here.
- October 29 from 12 noon – 1 pm – Disabled Children’s Home Care (VT’s Katie Beckett Medicaid) Eligibility & New Application. Presenter: Betty Morse, HST/Technical Assistance Specialist, Children with

Special Health Needs (CSHN), Vermont Department of Health. Register here

- **AHS Central Office, Auburn Watersong:**

- Has been very focused on burnout and prevention for staff.
- Has done virtual wellness sessions for departments and Auburn is getting more requests.
- Racial equity work at the agency has developed and flourished across all depts. The cross-dept. trauma team is inventorying what is happening and identifying gaps.
- Vermont Resiliency messaging project is moving forward and rolling out messaging about what is resiliency-how do we build it and monitor it? Resiliency Messaging Practice Guide – attached to this email.
- Vermont Afterschool professional development opportunities are great to check out-especially youth mental health and equity.
- [Vt Afterschool professional development handbook](#) (including youth mental health first aid)
- Registration link for VT Afterschool [professional development registration](#)

- **Field Services, Suzanne Legare Belcher:**

- The Field Directors are very involved with the mask distribution. If communities need masks, please let the FD know. They are passing out to childcare, libraries, etc.
- Working with the housing voucher programs and working with teams in the districts to support children who are in hotels.

- **VFFCMH:**

- Sandi Yandow continues to be in the role of Interim Executive Director
- Federation is getting a lot of calls for CSPs and IEP meetings.
- School differences are confusing about hybrid models. Some schools are not allowing children in if they are late which puts more pressure on parents/caregivers.
- Matt Wolf is leaving as the YIT Coordinator this Friday. He's accepted a position with Vermont Afterschool.

- **VDH-MCH:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Breena Holmes is departing and Ilisa Stahlberg will be the new Director.</li> <li>○ VDH staff are feeling stretched by the extra COVID response work.</li> <li>○ MCH division level-started some family engagement work almost a year ago. Working with Charlotte Safron and that work is beginning again after being put on hold for several months.</li> <li>○ Personal Care Services-still operating under temporary authority from CMS to pay parents to care for their children. They are still waiving the need for reassessments.</li> <li>○ High tech nursing program is going through payment reform including folks at DAIL, DVHA, VFN, VNA.</li> </ul>	
<b>SIT focus moving forward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we move to another Thursday of the month? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cheryle has a conflict due to a national policy call that happens on the same Thursday at the same time each month that she needs to attend.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Residential Analysis report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undergoing final edits and will be ready in early October</li> </ul> </li> <li>• System of Care Report-discuss next time</li> <li>• LIT visits-discuss next time</li> </ul>	Cheryle and Diane will work to determine if we can change our meeting time-please let them know if that is not at all reasonable
<b>Adding a few items to the CSP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custody agreements with parents—not about DCF custody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We need to be thoughtful in situations where there is domestic violence.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Race data</li> <li>• DS Eligibility</li> <li>• Added a parent signature box</li> </ul>	Please review and send any comments to Cheryle by Friday, October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forgo updates and focus on System of Care report – with key questions to plan accordingly</li> <li>○ Meet for an hour and a half</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	